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## SPEAKERS


Gordon Bishop, Anthony Imperiale


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- G** Gordon Bishop 00:02  
This is Sound Role three, Sound Role Three, Newark documentary and this is the 28th of May 1980. And this will be the Imperiale interview. Sound 20 coming up. ...would be to talk about what this whole setup is here... Okay, well, I'll ask the question and he can respond, I'll give you a specific question.
- i** 00:29  
sound 20
- G** Gordon Bishop 00:31  
sound 20 Tony, we're in the North Ward now. Your ambulance squad, Councilman Imperiale's Little City Hall. When did this begin? And why?
- A** Anthony Imperiale 00:53  
Well, approximately 13 years ago, uh 1967. When this used to be my karate school, and my business office Newark was confronted with a riot. And I just felt that that time that people wouldn't giving a hoot about what was going on and wasn't caring about what our administration was doing. So we started to have a meeting, I went house to house door to door asking people to come here. As a result of [inaudible] started with the five people and then the next thing we know we're mushroomed into thousands of people. We began going into council meetings and we got really taking a hold and identifying what the problems were. And then in 68, I was asked to run for the councilman. And I won, I beat the 13 candidates by 5000 votes. I came out top. And we put the sign up, and we put up the sign the North Ward Citizens Committee. And they've been there 13 years and we just don't have the heart to take 'em down. In spite that I have an office and I'm with the State Legislative now, Legislators. I just feel that as a members feel that that was an important part of our Lout, our lives. We were forming,

we were creating. We were getting involved. And as a result of all of it, because you can see that the ambulance squad has been started we have our own blood bank, we have our own food depository. And the most important thing is we are self sustaining in everything we do. We're supported by the citizens, by donations. We're supported by our own money that comes out of our pocket. We take no grants, we discriminate against no one. You need our ambulance, it's there at your disposal. You need our blood for your children. It's there at your disposal. And I think we do a fine job. I take my hat off to the members. We number approximately 1500 members now, we're 400 active. But I think-


 **Gordon Bishop** 02:42  
Purely voluntary?


 **Anthony Imperiale** 02:43  
Everything is volunteer the patrols the blood bank, the ambulance squad, the transportation services we have. No one gets paid, no government grants. So the thing that's important is we all do it because we are enthusiastic about it. It is our community and we contribute to it. We're not motivated by government grants. Some people won't do anything for their neighbor, unless they can get a grant. We've been here 13 years giving free service. And we're very proud of it.

 **Gordon Bishop** 03:10  
Was it? No, I mean, you didn't cut did you? Okay. I'll ask you a question, and you just keep going.

 03:23  
You have to get out of the shot.

 **Gordon Bishop** 03:27  
On this side. Action? Tony, there has been criticism about a vigilante squad. You've heard that?

 **Anthony Imperiale** 03:36  
Oh, yes.

 **Gordon Bishop** 03:37  
What what is what does that mean? A vigilante squad in the North ward? What do you do up here?

A

Anthony Imperiale 03:42

To us it means that some people are branding us with a title, not knowing what we are. There's nothing wrong with the word vigilance. Vigilante is an old western thing. We don't go out and hang anyone. We don't go out and apprehend people and hang 'em from trees. We do have a tremendous arrest record. We do have a tremendous record in aiding and abetting the citizens here. When a citizen needs our help, we're here. Especially now at the time, we were only 900 Policemen taking care of over 240,000 people in the city in Newark. Violent Crimes is up 75% since January. We don't have enough policemen, responding time for police officers are two and a half, three hours at times. And not because of policemen don't want to respond it's because the city fathers, the mayor and the director, I don't know what they're doing in this town.

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Gordon Bishop 04:32

This is the police director?

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Anthony Imperiale 04:33

The police director, right. They are not, he's not a professional man. And Mayor Gibson thinks that this town can be run without policemen, he's wrong. Three weeks ago on TV, he said that the people have to take care of themselves. Well, that's hypocritical, because we've been taking care of ourselves and our neighbors for 13 years and you call us vigilantes. 13 years later, you're now on TV and you're telling the people you have to take care of yourselves because we don't have sufficient policemen. But as the word vigilante, when they don't see us on a street, putting our mouth on top of the little boy's mouth, and giving them mouth to mouth resuscitation, saving his life. If that's vigilante to some people, I'm very proud to be a vigilante for 13 years, we patrol these streets free of charge. And we have aided every type of citizen from Black, White, Puerto Rican, we've never discriminated against anyone. And we do not deny we will not [inaudible] with anyone that came in, we caught a guy mugging an old woman or something like that, and we've done we've apprehended them. We're not too nice with them. Why should we be nice? Because we live in a society now that it's dangerous to live. It's dangerous to walk in broad daylight in the City of Newark, you're being robbed at shotgun point.

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Gordon Bishop 05:43

Is that why you carry a personal gun to protect yourself?

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Anthony Imperiale 05:46

Oh, well, no, I'm a commissioned State Detective and I have a security business and I have a license and I have a gun store and have a license to carry a gun. But the [inaudible] people were not licensed to carry guns. They would love to carry a gun because of what's happened in the city of Newark. And the thing that's dangerous in Newark and why we are persistent with our patrols - And we have given birth to sister groups in the city of Newark, with civilian patrol -

is that what's so dangerous is that now the people know that in our own homes in broad daylight in Broad and Market you can't walk, you have a shot gun shoved in your face, you call a radio car, and there's nothing to respond because they don't have sufficient police. So while people are calling us vigilantes, the people of our community, and now many communities who have been the victims of criminals, have began to realize that what we are doing is merely taking care of our families, protecting our homes, protecting our property. Now, unfortunately, Mayor Gibson just moved back [inaudible] to Newark. But if he were living in Newark in his first eight years, and he'd been on the streets like I am, as a legislator, he would see that these streets are dangerous. It is not a matter that it's a racial thing. It's the criminal people versus the good people. The bad guys want the good guys money. And you know, laws reflect our society. And right now I'm ashamed to say as a legislator, that our laws certainly do not reflect anything that's good for our children to see. Now, there's a lot of people that try to make Newark look like it's on its way back. It's not. It's devastating. It's destructive, what's down here. And when Gibson said on the radio, that wherever America's going, Newark will be there first. I pray God it doesn't real--- ome where we are because we're in hell. We're a living nightmare. You think the worst is behind, or? No! No I'll tell you why-

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Gordon Bishop 07:37

What do you see i n the 1980s, for the North Ward, and for the City of Newark, in general?

A

Anthony Imperiale 07:41

With a different administration, with a different mayor, different police director, and different representatives in certain areas, I foresee a great future for the city of Newark. I do not see a good future for the City of Newark at this time, because, number one, we all know the citizens regardless of our race, color, or creed, that there is a federal investigation into Gibson, they found \$100,000 in his bank in Switzerland, and there's a pervasive feeling of corruption. A man who makes a deal not to have an investigation come about because it's election time, doesn't serve the community, our community is not dumb. The pipeline on this street is far better than what the FBI can get. The informants that we have on the street are telling us what's going on. And if the people are smart and the politicians are smart. A crook is a crook, whether he's black or white. And justice should be should be should be served swiftly against those who who make these crimes against the people. And any politician especially who's elected by the people who compromises his position, and he sells his principle, he shouldn't be in office, and justice should move swiftly against whoever he is. We know that our city is corrupt. We know that Gibson's administration has tarnished. We know that with all the report in the media of his bank account in Switzerland, mismanagement, this is killing the morale of our people in this city. And you don't have to be any specific color to have your morale killed, all you have to be is a decent law abiding citizen. And it's frustrating to stand by and see that the justice cannot prevail.

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Gordon Bishop 09:10

It's been about \$1.5 billion of public money federal state pumped into the city of Newark. Where has it gone? Can you give me any idea where this federal money is going for housing, medical care, police protection, cleaning out the streets?

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Anthony Imperiale 09:27

I can only say that I have found as a citizen as well as a legislator that in the demolition program. One house is purportedly then put under demolition six times. Okay. Plush carpeting in City Hall. The money that's coming to Newark has not been accounted for and I blame the government to a point. That's why I demand that as a legislator that we should have some sort of reporting back to the government, what you've done with this money with the type of money that's coming to Newark. We should have a first class city here. We should have not not projects. We should have the townhouse concept that I spoke about eight years ago. And right now, this city is almost 70% tax exempt. A reevaluation has just crippled us. Where are we going? We haven't, in 1968 When I was a councilman, we were supporting our school system with the taxpayers that were paying taxes in Newark. And we were educating more children with less money. Today, our budget is \$191 million in the Board of Education. We're educating less children. And they can't they can't pass an ordinary test. They go to high school and they're in college and have to be given remedial reading. Even in the medical college in Newark, you ever hear of a doctor going for remedial reading in the summertime that tells you what's going on in Newark. Now I'm considered a maverick. Some people consider me other things than a maverick because I'm outspoken. But anything that I've said, I challenge anyone to discredit it. It's a matter of record.

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Gordon Bishop 11:03

I know that you're running for governor. Ken Gibson, the mayor also announced he's gonna run for governor. Why doesn't Gibson stay in Newark content in Newark's business? Why don't you stay in Newark, content in Newark's business? You think being governor of New Jersey is gonna change the course of Newark's history?

A

Anthony Imperiale 11:22

Number one, we don't want Mayor Gibson in Newark, it's just a matter of his trickery, that he's able to stay there. He's not a good representative of the people. He has not done this city, any justice. One of the reasons that I do not want to stay on in the city of Newark or in the state, is because I have found as a legislator with a two term in the assembly, one in the Senate, that our state officials are either corrupt, or gutless. And there's only a handful that will stand up. I have sat in both houses on the state level and watched the law be violated by legislators who they make the laws. And I cannot just be a party of 120 because I'm only one vote. And it appears that there are not enough politicians that had the guts to come out and say and do what has to be done. So I'm frustrated. I could no longer serve my people as an army of 120 legislators because that army is filtered with people that can be bought. And it's been proven with the state income tax. Legislators who don't give a damn, legislators who have their own projection for themselves. And there's only a handful that really give a damn and there's not enough of us to carry a vote to pass the right kind of law. We thought we were gonna get a knight in shining armor. We got, uh, Brendan Byrne, the man who can't be bought. You can't buy the guy, he's subsidized to the hilt. So he compromised his position. He's done a lot of illegal things. The income tax, you know that there's a law stating that a legislator is not to sell his vote, in, in return of something. It's only a misdemeanor, but this state the media is

reporting, "The legislators have sold their votes for jobs." 10 Democratic legislators were beat because they gave a vote against the people. And the governor rewards them by giving them jobs. That's not a government of the people.

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Gordon Bishop 13:12

Tony, you got an interesting operation here in the North ward. Why do you stick it out here when you could easily move anywhere?

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Anthony Imperiale 13:19

Because first of all, I was born and raised in Newark this has been always a beautiful city. Why should I run? Because if I run from Newark, and the cancer follows me to wherever I move, I gotta stand and make a fight. That's not the answer: running. Americans of all race, color, creed, that love Newark that are good people should stay here. That's why Newark is the way it is. Everybody wanted to run. Listen, you can't run away from something that's going to follow you. This is a beautiful town. No one you know people look at Newark and they say, "Riots". No one's rolled in Forest Hill. We have \$100,000 homes there. No one's really taking a look at the Ironbound. No one has really taken a look at some of the decent black community because they always write in on Springfield Avenue. 13 years ago there was a riot! What the hell do you want to keep living on Springfield Avenue for? Go into the homes where black and whites have beautiful homes, stabilize their community. This is what we're not getting enough of.

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Gordon Bishop 14:15

Do you feel the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center is helping to stabilize the neighborhood or community?

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Anthony Imperiale 14:21

Definitely not. You see,

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Gordon Bishop 14:23

it looks like a rather ambitious community undertaking.

A

Anthony Imperiale 14:28

Anybody can be ambitious when you're getting paid. Remember, Mr. Abudato is obtained a lot of government grants and all of his family is employed. And there's a difference. We're happy if a man comes into a community to stabilize it, but our ambulance doesn't stop on Mount Prospect Avenue. That man won't even let his rigs go below Mount Prospect Avenue to pick up people. We have people that come into our organization complaint that Mr. Adubato won't go into the Black areas below Mount prospect while we go anywhere and Mr, Adubato never did

anything like this until he got his grants. Now you may say that it's a case of sour grapes, it isn't really a case of sour grapes. It makes me angry because a man comes out, and he doesn't do a damn thing for the people until he gets government grants, Ford Foundation, Monsignor Barone from Italy

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Gordon Bishop 15:21

He gets two and a half million dollars a year for that operation.

A

Anthony Imperiale 15:23

Okay, two and a half million dollars for an operation that opens up at ten and closes at four and is not open on weekends. An operation, \$29,000 is sitting right there. And the other two ambulances by my house, there's another 60,000 there. Bought by the people. This is self sustaining. If they took that kind of money and not to pay salaries, we don't want salaries, put it in buy our equipment for us pay our insurance for us. By golly, we wouldn't have to stand on corners and beg, we can use that time to give better service. None of us want to be paid. And I think that when you say you give two and a half million dollars to a man who closes on Saturdays and Sundays and uses his Center politically, that's a disgrace. And that serves not to help the community, it frustrates the community because as an Italian American, I resent the fact that he names it the North Ward Italian Culture center and the Italian American of this community are the last to receive anything. So we're a pawn. We're a pawn. And I wish him luck. I don't like the man never did. I said it to his face. He's not to be trusted. And I never shake his hand, because you don't mix PP with a skunk (?).

G

Gordon Bishop 16:38

Okay, for the next few minutes, get off your chest, anything you want about this street, this operation, anything that you've ever wanted to say and the media wouldn't let you say it or wasn't reported accurately, this is your time to say it.

A

Anthony Imperiale 16:51

Okay. I think that the President, the United States has got a hell of a lot of nerve along with Governor Byrne, to make any kind of a deal to suppress the federal investigation into the Gibson administration and to Gibson himself, where it's commonly known that he is in some way shape or form sold the people this city out. This city of Newark is not receiving the cleanliness that it's supposed to. Stone street, Cutler street, Seventh Avenue, not even clean no more. We're watching the man take away jobs. He did away with the garbagemen pulling out the garbage. He's now wanting to contract the garbage out to contractors. What about the people he's putting out of work? He says that it's cheaper in the long run, it's not. The most important thing that annoys me, is what makes these people think that Mayor Gibson is the savior of this town. Take a look at this town. It's worse than it's ever been. And we are the victims of certain media, who have their own satellite programs going, who all believe in Newark, who live up on top of the hill. And at night, they all go home. How the hell can you up on the hill, tell me what's good for me, when I'm living here and I'm the victim of the cancer

and you're up on the hill and you got a gate around making sure that this cancer doesn't come into you. How can you tell me how to live? How can you project to the people in the city of Newark when you're not from Newark? How does anybody justify and condone a cover up of any crime of any political crook? Regardless of what his color is? Who gives him this [inaudible] of immunity? I resent it.



Gordon Bishop 18:27

Well, we know. Thank you Tony



Anthony Imperiale 18:28

Okay, thank you. All right.